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14. A method for sequencing a plurality of tasks performed or controlled by a computer comprising:

- a) displaying on a computer display a user interface having a directional field;
- b) placing in response to user input, task objects in said directional field, wherein said task objects represent the tasks to be performed by said computer;
- c) selecting, by a user, a directional attribute for said directional field;
- d) sequencing, by said computer, of one or more of the task objects in the directional field based on the relative spatial location of the task objects in the directional field and the directional attribute of the directional field.

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31. The sequencing method of claim 29 further including the step of selecting a directional attribute for the directional field by a user.

Remarks

The telephone interview granted by the Examiner on July 13, 2000 is appreciated. In light of this interview, claims 1, 14, and 31 have been amended to clarify one of the issues discussed during the interview. In particular, the amendments clarify that the directional attribute is changeable by a user. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that the phrase "changeable directional attribute" could be construed to mean that the directional attribute is changeable by the programmer. It was pointed out to the Examiner that the specification clearly describes the directional attribute as being changeable by the user. Also, the response dated December 21, 1999 filed by Applicant specifically refers to the directional attribute as "a user- changeable directional attribute."

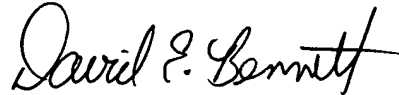
The prior art does not teach or suggest a user-changeable directional attribute as set forth in the amended claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims

are allowable over the prior art made of record and notice to such effect is respectfully requested. If, for some reason, the Examiner believes that the claims are not allowable, Applicant requests an interview with the Examiner to discuss any issues that the Examiner may have. The Examiner may contact Applicant's counsel at (919) 854-1844.

Respectfully submitted,

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